

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a page entitled "Version of Markings to Show Changes Made."

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 13-18 remain in this application. Claims 1, 5, and 11 have been amended. Claims 3, 12, and 19-22 have been canceled.

1. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of claims 12-13 are patentable, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 12. It is therefor submitted that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

2. § 112 Rejections

In view of the amendment to claim 5, it is requested that the rejection of claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, be withdrawn. Applicants have amended claim 5 as suggested by the Examiner.

3. § 102 Rejections

In view of the amendment to claim 1, applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-2, 4-6, 7, 11, 14-15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Randall. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3. Claim 3 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102.

4. § 103 Rejections

In view of the amendment to claim 1, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 8-10, 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 3,883,336 (Randall) in light of WO 97/22553 (Hawtof et al).

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the non-aqueous liquid reactant and the aqueous solution be delivered to a single burner assembly prior to atomizing the non-aqueous liquid reactant and aqueous solution. Applicants respectfully submit that it would be counter-intuitive to deliver both aqueous and non-aqueous solutions to a single burner, as one would

expect this to result in delivery problems due the nature of these two reactants being emisible with one another.

5. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Robert L. Carlson at 607-974-3502.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 14, 2003
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VERSION OF MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims:

1. (amended) A method of making soot from which an optical fiber preform is made, said method comprising the steps of:

a) atomizing a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to form an aerosol comprising numerous liquid droplets,

b) delivering said aerosol into a combustion zone; and

c) reacting said aerosol in a flame provided at said combustion zone to form finely divided glass soot particles, wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution to a single burner assembly prior to atomizing said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution.

3. Canceled

5. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

atomizing said non-aqueous liquid reactant at said first burner assembly to form a first aerosol; and

atomizing said aqueous solution at said second burner assembly, to form a second aerosol.

11. (amended) A process for making an optical fiber preform, said process comprising the steps of:

a) delivering a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to a burner assembly;

b) discharging said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution from said burner assembly into a flame, wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution are atomized to form an aerosol comprising a plurality of non-aqueous liquid reactant droplets mixed with a plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets;

c) reacting said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution in said flame to produce soot; and

d) depositing said soot onto a rotating mandrel.

12. Canceled

19. Canceled

20. Canceled

21. Canceled

22. Canceled